



CHARTER

Maryland Water Monitoring Council

Establishment

The Maryland Water Monitoring Council (MWMC) is established by the Department of Natural Resources.

Purpose

The MWMC shall serve as a statewide collaborative body to help achieve effective collection, interpretation, and dissemination of aquatic resource monitoring data used in addressing the issues, policies and management of the State's waters. The Council shall operate through consensus building among its members. The Council shall address the full range of aquatic resources, including ground and surface waters, freshwater, estuarine, and marine environments, and associated watershed resources in Maryland.

Goals

- Provide a forum for effective communication, cooperation, and collaboration among individuals and organizations involved in monitoring.
- Promote the development of collaborative watershed-based monitoring strategies.
- Document monitoring activities in Maryland.
- Promote the use of quality assured procedures for sample collection, performance based analytical methods, assessment, data management, and reporting.

Membership and Officers

Board of Directors (Board)

Board members of the MWMC shall be representatives of the following groups:

- (4) State Agencies—at least one each from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Department of the Environment;
- (4) Local Agencies;
- (2) Federal Agencies;
- (2) Volunteer Groups/Environmental Organizations (one of which has statewide affiliation);
- (2) Academia;
- (1) Intergovernmental Organizations;
- (2) Consultants and Industry;
- (4) At large members.

Nominees for appointment to the Board shall be provided to the Secretary of Natural Resources by a Nominations Committee established by the Board. Appointments by the Secretary of Natural Resources shall ensure that the membership is committed to water monitoring and is representative of the diverse interests, organizations, and regions of Maryland.

Except for any officers that may be elected, appointments to the Board shall be made for three-year terms. Initial appointments shall be staggered so that one-third of the Board members are replaced each year to allow for stability and continuity in leadership. Appointed members may designate alternatives to represent them in their absence.

Elected officers, including the Chair, Vice Chair, and any others deemed appropriate, shall be selected annually according to a process established by a majority vote of the members of the Board. Elected officers shall be members or former members of the Board and shall serve up to three years from the time of initial election, regardless of prior or existing Board tenure.

Committee Members

Committee chairs shall be selected by the Board. Members of the committees shall be selected by the respective Chairs with concurrence by the Board from the General Members.

General Members

General, non-voting membership shall be open to any person having an interest in promoting the goals of this organization.

Executive Secretary

The Department of Natural Resources shall provide staff support to serve the Council in the role of Executive Secretary.

Organization

Board members of the MWMC shall be appointed by the Secretary of Natural Resources. The Board shall establish such bylaws and procedures that it deems necessary to accomplish the purpose and goals of the MWMC. The Board may establish standing or ad hoc committees to address specific topics. Participants in the committees shall be representatives of agencies, organizations, and groups with responsibility for, or participation in, water monitoring activities.

Activities

The Council shall periodically convene meetings and symposia for the purpose of achieving collaboration, communication and information exchange among those engaged in water monitoring activities.

The Council may issue documents and reports to further enhance communication and information exchange

among those in the water monitoring community.

The Board shall meet as often as necessary, but not less than twice a year.

Effective January 1, 2003